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March 16, 2007

Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515-6501

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

Yesterday, the Appropriations Committee marked up and passed, as amended, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act. The funding requested in this bill is now some \$23 billion more than the President's initial Defense Emergency Supplemental Appropriations request. However, even more disturbing is the fact this proposed legislation contains provisions that attempt to direct the conduct of military operations in Iraq, a task The American Legion unalterably believes rests with the Commander-in-Chief and the military leadership.

The American Legion strongly recommends that Congress consider the President's FY 2007 Defense Emergency Supplemental Appropriations request, minus any additional amendments. The men and women of the armed forces in the theater of operation are dependent on this emergency funding to sustain and achieve their military missions.

The American Legion is supportive of many of the provisions contained in the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act, but we strongly believe the President's initial request is not the vehicle for these provisions, especially the specific language that sets deadlines and mandatory troops movements. The other emergency funding recommendations to the FY 2007 budget should be openly addressed in a subsequent appropriations package in a timely manner.

Absent the removal of the restrictive language designed to influence military operations, The American Legion calls on all Members to defeat the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul A. Morin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being the most prominent.

PAUL A. MORIN
National Commander

CC: Representative Steny Hoyer
Representative David Obey
Representative Ike Skelton
Representative Jack Murtha
Representative Chet Edwards
Representative Bob Filner
Representative John Boehner
Representative Roy Blunt
Representative Jerry Lewis
Representative Duncan Hunter
Representative Bill Young
Representative Jim Walsh
Representative Steve Buyer
All Other Members of the House of Representatives